

Success story



Woodlands Community College Southampton

Adapting to the changing education landscape

Woodlands Community College is using the vision2learn Business and Administration and Equality and Diversity vocational qualifications as well as the Learning to Learn resources.

The school will also use the new vision2learn GCSE resources from next year, with plans to use GCSE Religious Studies B and GCSE Leisure and Tourism specifically. The vision2learn for **schools** licence also includes GCSE Statistics, IGCSE First Language English and GCSE Child Development.

Changing exam demands

vision2learn for **schools** is perfectly placed to help schools adapt to the changing education landscape, from alterations to recognised qualifications to shifts in assessment methods.

Ben Bond, Assistant Headteacher at Woodlands Community College, confirmed that he is seeing the benefits of this at his school through vision2learn Learning to Learn tools. These resources are designed to help students explore their capacity to learn and take control of their own learning.

He says:

“We will use the Learning to Learn resources across the school. For younger pupils, for example, these tools are great for building essential sustainable skills to help the students manage their own learning and be motivated to progress at their own pace.

“The Learning to Learn tools also really help with revision. Most children now will do exams at the end of a course, rather than in a modular fashion and that’s where these tools really help because pupils are not used to this way of taking exams – they haven’t done that for many years. The Learning to Learn resources are a great buy-in for schools.”

Despite the changes to vocational qualifications, with many not counting in league tables from next year, vocational courses will still have significant value for many schools.

Ben Bond, explains:

“We will certainly continue to use the vision2learn vocational courses at Woodlands Community College. Vocational qualifications like these are still extremely worthwhile. They are so motivation-building for the children and leave them with a credible qualification at a time when they may not achieve anything otherwise.”

He adds:

“Anything where pupils can get a qualification which can help them go on into training and employment is to be valued. There’s what counts in league tables and what helps the students, and they’re not always the same things. Schools live and die by results of course, but it’s what helps pupils that is the most important thing.”

Boosting motivation and attainment

vision2learn resources have been carefully designed to be engaging, interactive and motivational. Students at Woodlands have reacted very well to the format and approach of the tools and the results are promising.

Ben Bond explains:

“We haven’t got a VLE so vision2learn is a way we can use an electronic platform. It’s particularly good for the pupils who are not in the building all the time. We’ve got students that are marginalised by attendance issues and vision2learn allows them to work outside of school and keep up.

“The reaction from students has been very positive. They can work independently, but within a structure – they can get on with their projects or tasks and get feedback, without having to be face-to-face with a teacher all the time.

“The students love the style and format of the courses and the bite-sized nature of the content. Crucially, vision2learn is definitely boosting grades for students. We’ve got kids getting grade equivalents they would have no chance of getting elsewhere.”

A low-prep, high-impact resource

vision2learn offers schools a lot of flexibility and can save teachers precious time.

Ben Bond says:

“Our teachers love vision2learn. Non-specialists can just pick it up and work with it. The navigation is very intuitive, so it’s not unlike other formats they might have used. It’s fully resourced, which I think is an advantage because I don’t have to ask staff to go and do loads of planning – they can spend an hour navigating around the site and then they can just run with that unit.”

Woodlands Community College

This mixed school of 706 11–16 year old pupils is based in Harefield, Southampton.

Between 2009 and 2012 Woodlands has seen a 9% rise in pupils achieving 5+ A*–C GCSE (or equivalent) including English and Maths.

This is the first year that teachers at Woodlands have used vision2learn for **schools**, and so far over 50 pupils have been enrolled on our online courses.

Contact us

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